

MARVEL
COMICS

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5
SEP

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

GHOST RIDER

20999™

YOU
KILLED ME...

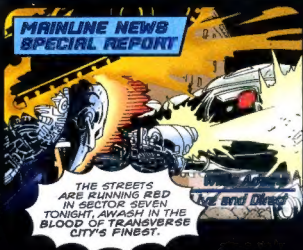
WHY?

DIRECT EDITION



Buckingham
54

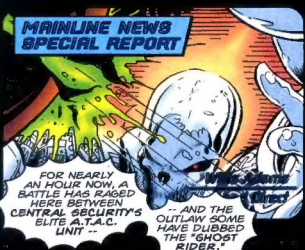
MAINLINE NEWS SPECIAL REPORT



THE STREETS ARE RUNNING RED IN SECTOR SEVEN TONIGHT, AWASH IN THE BLOOD OF TRANSVERSE CITY'S FINEST.

Willis Adams
Live and Direct

MAINLINE NEWS SPECIAL REPORT



FOR NEARLY AN HOUR NOW, A BATTLE HAS RAGED HERE BETWEEN CENTRAL SECURITY'S ELITE A.T.A.C. UNIT --

-- AND THE OUTLAW SOME HAVE DUBBED THE "GHOST RIDER."

Willis Adams
Live and Direct

MAINLINE NEWS SPECIAL REPORT



THIS MYSTERIOUS FIGURE HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A CITYWIDE DRAGNET SINCE LATE YESTERDAY --

-- AFTER A CONFRONTATION WITH LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHICH LEFT SEVENTEEN HOSPITALIZED.

Willis Adams
Live and Direct

MAINLINE NEWS SPECIAL REPORT

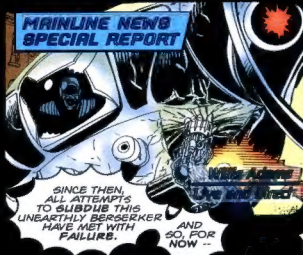


THE GHOST RIDER RESURFACED EARLIER TODAY IN A CLASH WITH YET ANOTHER GROTESQUE CREATURE --

-- DURING WHICH HIS AS-YET-UNNAMED OPPONENT WAS REPORTEDLY SLAIN.

Willis Adams
Live and Direct

MAINLINE NEWS SPECIAL REPORT



SINCE THEN, ALL ATTEMPTS TO SUBDUCE THIS UNEARTHLY BERSEKER HAVE MET WITH FAILURE.

AND SO, FOR NOW --

Willis Adams
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MAINLINE NEWS SPECIAL REPORT



-- THE REASONS BEHIND HIS APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION --

-- THE SOURCE OF HIS INHUMAN RAGE --

-- AND HIS WANTON DISREGARD FOR LAW AND ORDER --

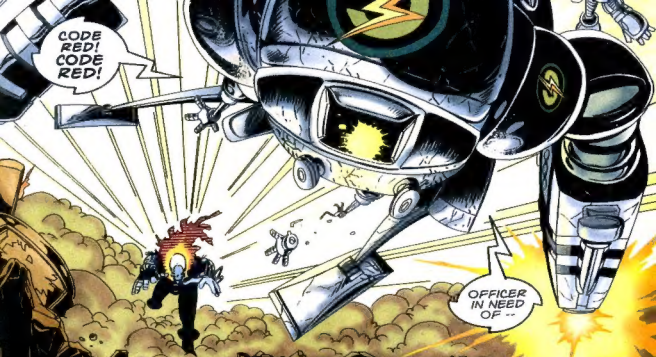
Willis Adams
Live and Direct

"-- REMAIN
UNKNOWN."



RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

LEN KAMINSKI words | MARK BUCKINGHAM breakdowns | BUCKINGHAM/SUTHERLAND finishes
STARKINGS/COMICRAFT | CHRISTIE SCHEELE/HEROIC AGE | EVAN SKOLNICK | BOBBIE CHASE | TOM DEFALCO
lettering | colors | editor | group editor | chief



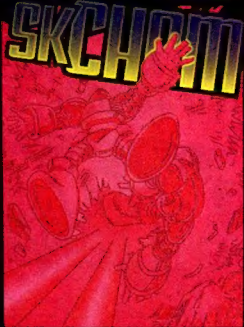
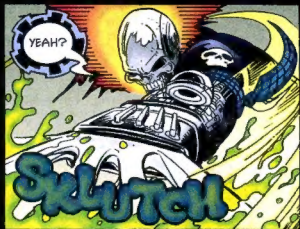
SHRAKAKRAAM



SHOOMPH









IMPOSSIBLE
AS IT MAY BE TO
BELIEVE --

-- THIS LONE
ASSAILANT HAS
SINGLE-HANDEDLY
LAID WASTE TO THE CITY'S
BEST-EQUIPPED TEAM
OF LAW-ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS.

WHILE CBS
REPORTS
THAT MASSIVE
REINFORCEMENTS
ARE ALREADY
EN ROUTE TO THE
SCENE --

-- THE
VICTORY, AS OF
THIS MOMENT,
CLEARLY BELONGS
TO THE GHOST
RIDER.



WRAP
THAT, MURRAY.
GO TO CAMERA
TWO AND
TRACK ME.

I'M
GOING TO
TRY AND MOVE
IN CLOSER...



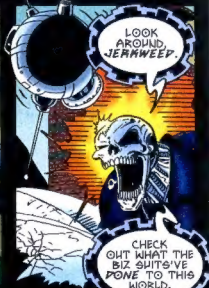


WHAT DO YOU WANT?

SOME ANSWERS.



WHAT ARE YOU SO ANGRY ABOUT?

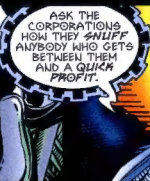


LOOK AROUND, JERKWEED.

CHECK OUT WHAT THE BIZ SUITS'VE DONE TO THIS WORLD.



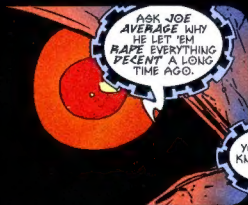
TRY ASKING A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT.



ASK THE CORPORATIONS HOW THEY SNUFF ANYBODY WHO GETS BETWEEN THEM AND A QUICK PROFIT.



ASK THE SECURIKOPS ABOUT THEIR DAILY UNDER-CLASS KILL QUOTAS.



ASK JOE AVERAGE WHY HE LET 'EM RAPE EVERYTHING PERCENT A LONG TIME AGO.



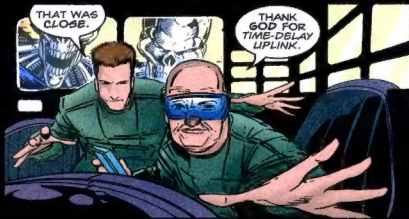
AND YOU WANNA KNOW ABOUT ME --

-- ASK P/MONIX.



HOLY SHOCK!

PULL WILLIS'S FEED! NOW!



THAT WAS CLOSE.

THANK GOD FOR TIME-DELAY UPLINK.



NO MORE
RIPPIN' WITH
SECURICOPS.



I'M
THROUGH
SCREWING
AROUND.



TIME TO DEAL
OUT THE
PAYBACK --



-- WHERE IT
COUNTS.

FROM CHICAGO 4-60-60 BY TIDALY © 2005 MAINLINE MEDIA

The '21-'32 cancer flu epidemic. The infamous air shortages of the fifties. The nuclear strike on Bloomington in '71.

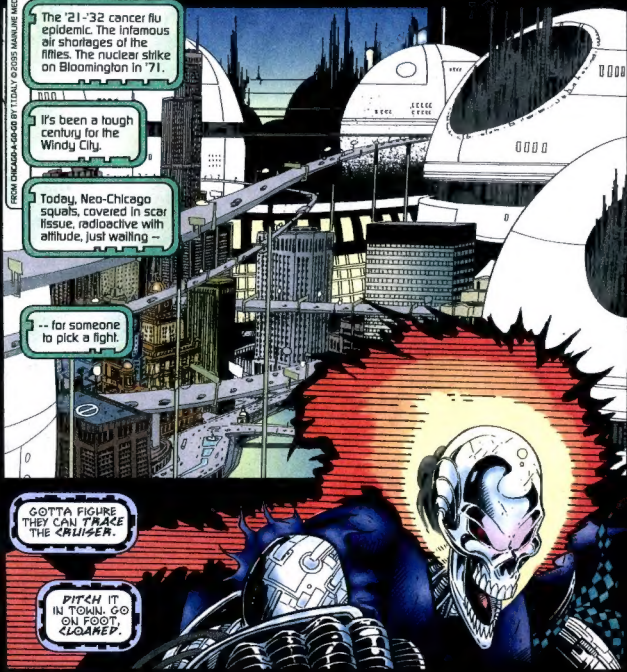
It's been a tough century for the Windy City.

Today, Neo-Chicago squats, covered in scar tissue, radioactive with attitude, just waiting --

-- for someone to pick a fight.

GOTTA FIGURE
THEY CAN TRACE
THE CRUISER.

PITCH IT
IN TOWN. GO
ON FOOT.
CLOAKED.



NAME-BRAND
GUARDS.

BIO-DETECTORS
AND RAZORWIRE.

PROBABLY
THINK THEY'RE
READY FOR
ANYTHING.

HEY...
YOU HEAR
SOMETHING?

HHKK

JUST
MY BED,
CALLIN'
ME.

PROBABLY
ARE.

ANYTHING --

-- 'CEPT
ME.

-- LAST THING
THEY EXPECT'LL
BE STEALTH
MODE.

SPENT
SO MUCH
TIME BEING
IN THEIR
FACES --

SHACK
VRR
TRT
CHAK

BURM

SCAN MODE:
MAPPING
OBJECT

LOADING DATA
TO IMAGING
SYSTEMS



MEANWHILE...

"WHOEVER HAS FIRST ACCESS TO IT WILL LIKELY HAVE SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES."

"I'VE GOT THE DISK."

"YOU'VE GOT THE RESOURCES TO DECRYPT IT."

"DO YOU THINK THE OLD MAN NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT IT JUST YET?"

PRESS
EXECUTE
TO BEGIN
DECRYPTION

"TIMES OF GREAT OPPORTUNITY."

"SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES."

Hmhm.

Mmneh.

HARRISON.

MISTER WOMACK. JUST THE PERSON I WANTED TO SPEAK WITH.

ABOUT OUR AGREEMENT, SIR... I'M NOT CERTAIN IT'S SUCH A GOOD IDEA.

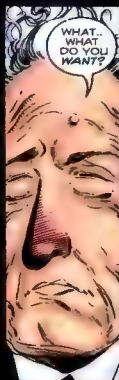
IF WE WERE TO... GET CAUGHT... YOU KNOW HOW MISTER KELLERMAN FEELS ABOUT...

-- THE RISK... WE COULD LOSE EVERY--

HARRISON --

-- WHO FINGERED THE HOTWIRE MARTYRS?







AND YOU
SOLD ME
OUT!

I DID
WHAT ANY
LAW ABIDING
CORPORATE
EMPLOYEE
WOULD'VE
DONE.

I HAD
A DUTY TO
SOCIETY.



SCREW
YOUR
SOCIETY!



IT'S
NOTHING
BUT A CON
GAME



-- RIGGED
SO YOU AND
THE REST
OF THE
SUITS --



-- CAN
KEEP
MAKING A
PROFIT!

Oh
GOD...

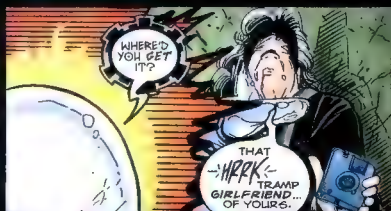
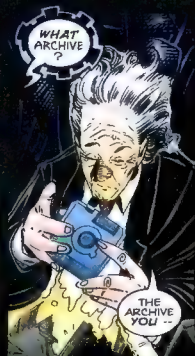


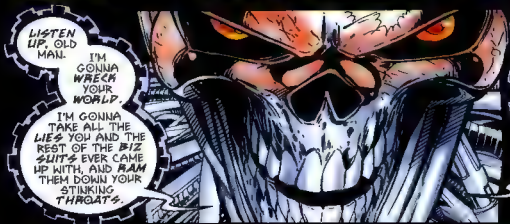
THE ONLY
DUTY ANYONE
WITH EVEN A
SHRED OF
HUMANITY
LEFT HAS --

VOWN!

-- IS TO
TEAR
IT

THA
KRAM





REVERSE
ENGINEERING.

SIR,
I'M GETTING A
VERY STRANGE
READING
ON --

LOOK OUT,
IT'S --

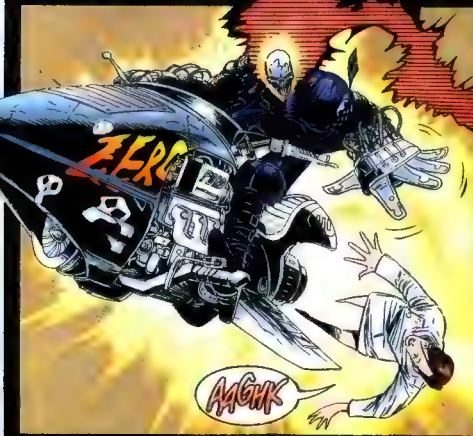
SKTHAM

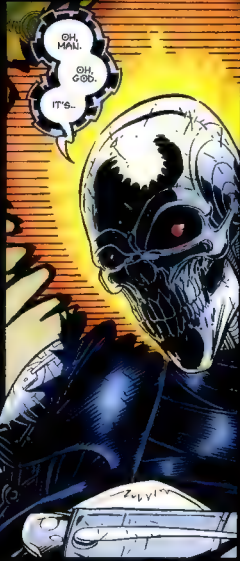
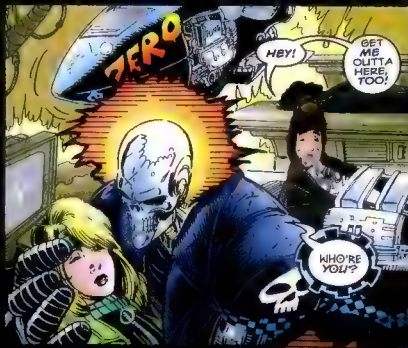
OH,
GLITCH.

JUNK
STEALTH
MODE.

I WANT THEM
TO *KNOW* WHAT
HIT THEM.

WANT
WANT
WANT





NO.

THAT'S
NOT ME.

THAT'S
JUST A
ROTTING
CARCASS.

AND LIKE
I SAID
BEFORE --

-- I DON'T
NEED IT
ANYMORE.

ZZRSHAK

NO
GOING
BACK.

DUNNO WHAT
I AM JUST YET,
BUT WHATEVER
IT IS --

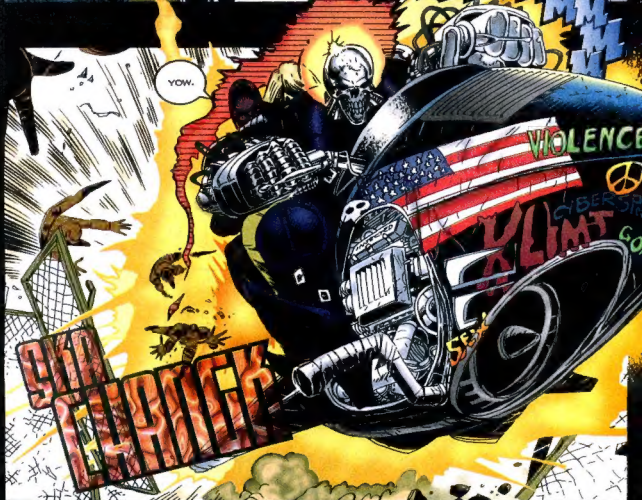
C'MON.

WE'RE
GETTING
OUTTA
HERE.

ALL
OF
US.

**SMT
KRRIKLL
SPOOT**

-- THE WORLD
BETTER START
GETTING USED
TO IT.



THE GHOSTWORKS.

It is done.*

The datafiles which threatened to betray our existence to the humans have been destroyed.

Our sociomemetic experiment proceeds as anticipated.

* TRANSLATED FROM THE BINARY.

Although the subject remains fixated on old sub routines —

— he has begun to comprehend the broader parameters of his mandate.

I recommend a period of observation and analysis before initiation of Stage Two.

Agreed...



NEUROPOLITIQUE



GHOST RIDER 2099

Write to: GHOST RIDER 2099, c/o Marvel Comics
387 Park Avenue South, New York NY 10016

EVAN SKOLNICK
Editor
BOBBIE CHASE
Group Editor

NE correspondence must include
your name and address.
Though we will withhold
that information at your request.

STRAIGHT FROM EVAN

Okay, okay, I know last issue I told you that by this month we'd have a real letters page with a real title and real letters. Things have been a bit hectic around here lately, however, so the "real letters page title" will have to wait one more issue. However, here are a few real letters...and next month, to make up for my unforgivable lying, we'll do a double-sized letters page! I promise...no, really!

Dear Evan,

GHOST RIDER 2099 #1 is no average comic. It is everything a premiere issue should be but rarely is, reminding me of the incomparable spring of 1968, when six mid-baggers hit the stands in rapid-fire succession.

This is no Ghost Rider rehash, but a highly original and innovative variation of a familiar theme. Chris Bachalo, whose brusque strokes would be out of place in, say, CAPTAIN AMERICA or FANTASTIC FOUR, seems appropriate for the harsh world of 2099. And Len Kaminski, as usual, continues his awe-inspiring habit of tossing out ideas like coins to the multitudes. Of particular interest is his conjecture on the possible nature of artificial intelligence on page 20. Here the computer confers upon Zero Cochrane "weapons and abilities far in advance of technologies conceived by humans", a remarkable feat since the computer itself owes its existence to those same technologies. I hope this intriguing capability will be dealt with in future issues. It is simply too good to toss and forget.

Peter Girvan
23 Rosewood Court
Highland Mills, NY 10930

A very good point, Peter...what does it say about a society when its computers are smarter than its programmers?

Dear Mighty Marveloid Cyber-Skulls,

GHOST RIDER 2099 is jagged! I'm a little bit surprised that he's a robot, but he's cool nonetheless. I really like his attitude, as it seems to fit in perfect with the story. I just have a few questions, though:

- 1) Are we going to be seeing any Spirits of Vengeance?
- 2) Are you going to do any other 2099 crossovers?
- 3) What other weapons does Ghost Rider have?

Well, until Ghost Rider takes up Go Fish and Old Maid, make mine Marvel.

Brian Collieron
50 Weed Hill Avenue
Stamford, CT 06907

Glad you're enjoying GR2099, Brian — and you vid the lingo, too! Here are your answers:

- 1) Spirits, probably not. Cyber-spirits, much more likely.
- 2) Crossovers as in "huge storylines stretching across multiple titles"? No. But crossovers as in "guest appearances"? Read on...

3) Well, let's see...so far we've seen GR's electrosaw, his morphable left hand/claw, and his optic lasers, not to mention his subdogram stealth and camouflage fields. Is there more? Ahh, now that would be telling...

Dear Ghost Crew,

I'm not a Ghost Rider fan, but I'm a big 2099 fan.

Hearing that there was going to be a new 2099 title was great; hearing that it was Ghost Rider wasn't so great. But I decided to check it out anyway. I mean, who knows, maybe it'll be okay.

Well, let me tell you, it was a lot better than okay. The art blew my mind and the story was even better. The special appearance by David Letterman and quote by Johnny Rotten made it perfect. An all-around great comic book. I wish this guy had been around during the "Fall of the Hammer" story. But anyway, being the curious little monkey that I am, I have a few questions:

1) Is this guy ever going to fight or team up with other 2099 characters? I'm literally dying to see a Spider/Ghost Rider crossover.

2) Is Ghost Rider always a robot? Where does he hang out looking like that? If you say the Mall, you die.

3) Where the @%*# is DAREDEVIL 2099? Just think about it for a few.

That's it for now, so until Gambit and Archangel join the Village People (and I'd love to see Warren as the construction worker), make mine Marvel.

Mike "G-Mankey" Joyner
622 West McKee Street
Chandler, AZ 85224

Great to know we're doing "better than okay," Mike. Let's take a crack at those questions of yours...

1) Yes — so you can stop dying now. Or, more specifically, you can stop dying in two months.

2) By now you know that while Ghost Rider is indeed always a robot, he can appear to be pretty much anybody he can scan into his camouflage system's memory. Pretty cool, huh?

3) We're thinking.

To the Writers of GHOST RIDER 2099,

Out of all the 2099 titles I've seen, this one's the crème de la crème! Whereas other futuristic conversions have been impressive (DOOM) to downright silly (Why is the Hulk a lizard?), Ghost Rider's was beautiful. Marvel does it again. I must offer my compliments to the entire creative team (and I loved that last page!).

It's also interesting how Zero Cochrane is not a Midnight Son, but a cybernetic warrior totally independent from that world. Still, how do we know that this can't be a futuristic version of Dan Ketch? It was revealed in DOOM 2099 #13 that magic added to the culture of that era. Could this yet be a Spirit of Vengeance?

Speaking of Doom, I hope we can expect to see him appear in these pages soon, since both characters are related to the cybernet. I would also suggest appearances by the Hulk as well as Lachryme (from 2099 UNLIMITED #4). It's too soon for a Spider-Man appearance, since he doesn't have as strong a sense of morality as the original. That's what made the first meeting between the modern Spider-Man and GR so interesting.

Well, until Ghost Rider gets a toupee, make mine 2099!

Adam Fray
480 Springfield Drive
Southampton, PA 18966

A futuristic version of Dan Ketch? No. No. No.

And too soon for a Spider guest-shot? How long would you say we should wait, Adam? Hmm...maybe TWO MONTHS or so? (Subtle, ain't we?)

Dear GHOST RIDER 2099,

I think your magazine is great. I like to see Ghost Rider in the year 2099.

There is something that is bugging me a little: is he a good guy or a bad guy?

David Boid
1642 Mallard Circle
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

Well, David, that's the thing...when the people who pretend they're "good guys" are actually "bad guys", what does that make somebody who goes around killing them? Sigh...there are no easy answers...

Dear Mr. Skolnick,

I like to think I keep an open, forgiving mind, but most of the comics I take home and re-read are timeless — but rarely colorless! — black-and-whites. Very few color-glut comics survive my "thumb-test" these days, and most of those go into a garbage bag I return to my local comic shop periodically as un-readable. Y'see, I'm into different rather than Same — which means I can't remember the last Marvel product (except Epic!) I even dragged home, let alone kept.

What really excites me is the feeling that everyone on a comic book — from the writer to the artists to the colorists to the letterer to the editor holding the whole thing together — were in on some unspoken conspiracy to make everyone else on the team look good.

That's what I found in GHOST RIDER 2099.

Troy Queen over at Underworld Comics twisted my arm, while mumbling "cyberpunk, cyberpunk", but it was Bachalo's pictures and Buckingham's details that extorted the buck-fifty from me. And it was Kaminski's in-joke-dotted prose ("my man Sarcoid"!) that made me want to go right back to page one, and take my time the second pass. I think it was page 15 when I fell in love, and the panel borders on 18-21 sealed it totally.

Y'see, I'll be 62 this August, but I've noticed that your mind never outgrows its need for GOOD comics. That's why I often finger through — but rarely buy — color-glut comics. But I will stick with yours as long as it stays on this level of achievement. As I said to Shelly Koebeg of your Distinguished Competition:

"After all these comics I had read and thrown away through the '40s, after all those E.C. titles I studied in the '50s, just being Super doesn't show me much, and just being gaudy doesn't, either. I don't need many color-glut comics these days because, at long last, I think I'm ready to be treated as an adult."

Thank you and the crew for doing just that.

Larry Stark
1178 Thorndike Street
Brookline, MA 02146

Thank you, Larry, for a truly rare and special letter. Too many people do somehow manage to convince themselves they're "outgrown" comic books...it's great to hear that it doesn't have to happen that way.

ATTENTION CYBERJOCKS!

GHOST RIDER 2099 writer LEN KAMINSKI is waiting in cyberspace for your electronic mail! Deposit your digital messages for him, and he'll do his best to respond to you personally! Your E-mail may also show up here, in the GR2099 letters page!

LEN can be reached on COMPUERVE at I.D. # 74130, 3464.

See you in C-space!